



CGBD Members at the 2012 Annual Meeting in Chattanooga, TN

THE CGBD 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

"One planet. One experiment."

—E.O. Wilson

An enterprising cluster of foundation and government folks thought foundations could work together better to protect the web of life—Biodiversity. 25 years ago, they hatched an experiment with a UN-sounding name, the Consultative Group on Biological Diversity (CGBD). Ted Smith, who straddled the foundation and government worlds, became the first E.D.

Today, CGBD is shorthand for how highly committed funders learn and work together. CGBD stands for digging deeply, while looking over the horizon to see what's coming next. Handing your neighbor the shovel for his turn or the binoculars for hers.

Long before collaboration was a catchword, CGBDers were actually doing it—uniting with grantees to save great swatches of land, protect diverse spawning grounds and bewitching coral reefs, safeguard centuries-old sacred places and the communities that hold them dear, and hasten the transition to a clean energy economy. It is our intent to continue to foster more and newer models of collaboration that can meet the ever-growing challenge of sustaining life on Earth.

2012 was marked by increased funder activity at all levels—international to local.

Thank you for your belief in the Vision and Mission of the CGBD: *A sustainable, just and healthy future for all life on Earth, advanced by a vibrant and effective philanthropic sector.*

The CGBD supports and grows a community of foundation leaders who:

- learn by sharing knowledge;
- adopt a holistic approach to environmental problem-solving;
- seek to be well informed about scientific, economic, cultural and political factors affecting their work; and
- pursue collaborative strategies to effect change guided by a broad scale assessment of trends.

Barry D. Gold

Barry D. Gold
Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation
President of the CGBD Board of Directors

Lynn Lohr

Lynn Lohr
Executive Director, CGBD



THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CGBD)

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“The CG meeting in Chattanooga was first rate. I heard from many others they had similar positive feelings...exceptionally well organized, stimulating, and thought provoking. Each session was very high quality.”

—Michael Northrop, Rockefeller Brothers Fund

2012 WAS A WATERSHED YEAR FOR CGBD

We celebrated our 25th Anniversary at a festive and forward-looking Annual Meeting in Chattanooga—hosted by the infinitely hospitable Bruz Clark of the Lyndhurst Foundation with the able support of the 2012 Annual Meeting Planning Committee led by Cecily Kihn, Agua Fund.

In our follow-up survey of Annual Meeting attendees, 71% gave the meeting the highest possible rating, “Excellent,” or as one participant remarked, “a remarkable achievement ... it’s almost unheard of to be so successfully high quality in a meeting like this.” Attendees singled out program highlights in their comments:

- Bruz Clark’s welcoming keynote “Ruminants, Riverboats, Rivets, and Revitalization—The Chattanooga Story” painted a “very impressive” picture of “how Lyndhurst’s commitment and leadership was an integral component of the city’s revival” and “meshed seamlessly with the substantive conservation themes being advanced. It made the discussion tangible in a useful and inspiring way.”
- The academy “Strengthening Messengers and Narrative: Strategic Uses of Story” presented by Thaler Pekar “was great in helping to shift the way I think about messaging with my grantees and my Board.”
- The plenary sessions “Post-Modern Conservation” and “North America as a Resource Colony” provoked follow-up questions: “Should we be trying to return nature to some pre-colonization state or embracing nature, post-human influence?” “What are different funders’ approaches to wrestling with growing international demand and development pressures?”
- Kumi Naidoo’s keynote “Building a Movement: Making the Case for Biodiversity” was “awesome,” “compelling,” “exciting,” “inspiring,” “fabulous and motivational.”
- Respondents supported giving international issues more airtime: “The China issue should continue to be pursued because it pervades so much of our lives”; “How can international and domestic funders team up more effectively on cross-border issues?”
- Experimenting with a “JEDTalks” format was judged “thought-provoking and wide-ranging” and “allowed a much larger window into some of the issues we as funders are facing, expanding my knowledge and encouraging me to learn more about a breadth of topics.”
- More than any single session, attendees most appreciated the opportunity for sharing ideas and building relationships: “Connecting with friends and colleagues, and having time for conversations that enable fresh, innovative thinking”; “Networking—learning more about who’s funding what and why”; “I’m still new in the foundation world and this is a great opportunity to meet and learn from my peers.”

25 YEARS of Commitment to Sustaining and Preserving Biodiversity

'87

CGBD founded;
Based at Rockefeller Bros. Fund;
Ted Smith first ED

'89

Workshop: *Marketing Non-Timber Forest Products*

'90

Workshops at Central Park Zoo &
Missouri Botanical Garden;
Anticipating Earth Summit

'91

First Annual Meeting in
Washington, DC

'92

Catherine Porter second ED;
Vancouver Island highlights Great
Bear Rain Forest;
Forest Working Group formed

'93

Marine Conservation Working
Group formed

'94

Systemic Contaminants Working
Group formed;
Biodiversity Project created

'96

Collaborations: Fisheries
Management, MPAs;
Sustainable Forestry Group
supports Certification Worldwide;
Conservation & Development
Working Group;
CGBD moves to San Francisco

'97

Salmon Farming: A Briefing Book
Marine Stewardship Council
introduced;
Briefings: Trade & Globalization,
Grantmaking in a Changing
Mexico, Smart Growth

INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Together with EGA and EDGE and with the support of the Ford and V. Kann Rasmussen Foundations, CGBD provided organizing, communications and logistical support for 35 environmental funders attending the *Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development*. We worked to provide accreditation, aid in hotel negotiations and logistics, and organize gatherings with key speakers for the funders with a goal to enriching the grantmakers' learning experiences.



Irene Krarup of the V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation, Tom Kruse, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and Don Chen, Ford Foundation, helped plan the proceedings, which featured four "behind-the-scenes" breakfast briefings and other related events; the list of speakers included UN Foundation President Tim Wirth; Yoke Ling Yee, founder of the Third World Network, and others. Lively ad-hocs followed the breakfasts with speakers on indigenous, landless, and women's movements. From an evaluation of the event:

As 35 foundation representatives begin to reflect on their participation in the recently ended UN Earth Summit in Rio, we all share an enormous debt of gratitude to CGBD for its willingness to step in and provide crucial assistance in several parts of the planning phase.

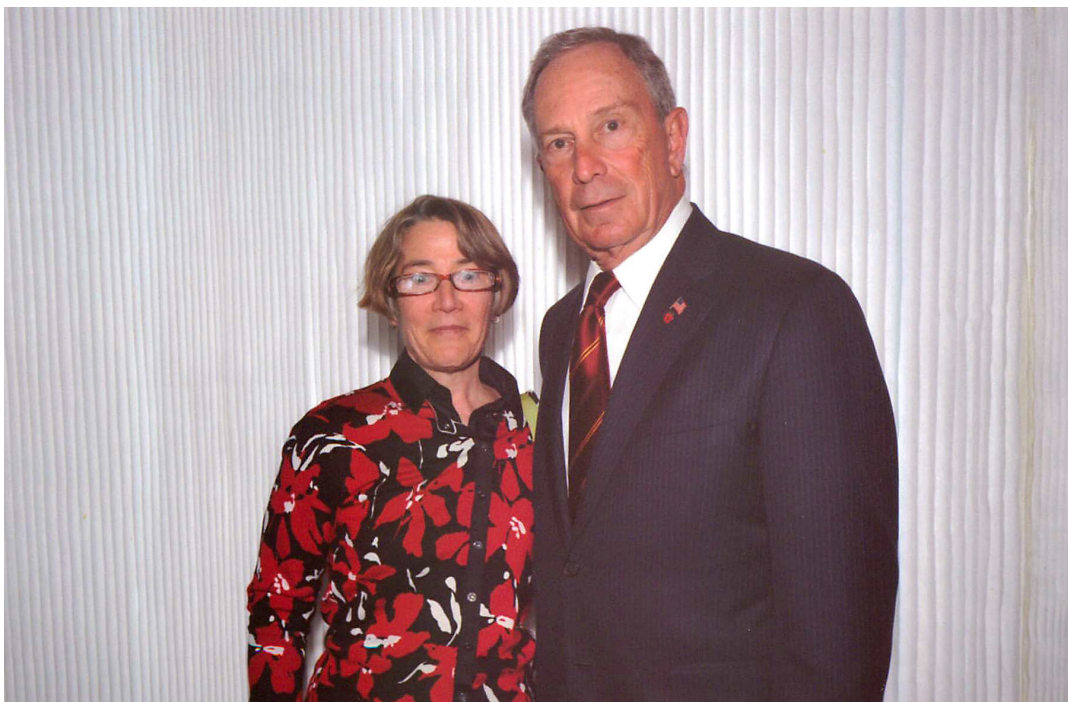
Over the past year it has been an eye-opener to discover that CGBD is the only affinity group with an inside track at the United Nations. If you had not allowed this use of CGBD's key player status, participation of private US and European foundations at this meeting would likely have been cut by more than 50%.

We cannot thank CGBD enough for accepting our request for assistance in planning a series of daily funders' briefings. That we managed, on relatively short notice, to get four affinity groups and three foundations to co-organize these priceless morning briefings and other fora for professional conversations among participating foundations would not have been possible without your personal engagement and seasoned leadership.



Philanthropy Dialogue at IUCN, Jeju, South Korea

Continuing to strengthen our international initiatives, CGBD Executive Director Lynn Lohr moderated a "Dialogue Among Philanthropic Leaders on Emerging Environmental Trends" at the *IUCN World Congress* in Jeju, South Korea. The Congress, held every four years, had 5,000 registered attendees and 600 events. Panelists for the funder dialogue included CGBD board members Ken Wilson of the Christensen Foundation and Bruce Lourie of the Ivey Foundation, as well as representatives of the MAVA Foundation (Switzerland), the Good Energies Foundation (Switzerland), Synchronicity Earth (England), The Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (United Arab Emirates), and the New England Biolabs Foundation (US). Julia Marton-Lefèvre, IUCN Director General reported, "Many participants have told me that the Jeju Congress was the best in IUCN's history, and some even stated that the Philanthropy Dialogue was one of the best sessions."



Amy Solomon, Bullitt Foundation, with New York City Mayor, Michael Bloomberg, at the CEFG Annual Meeting

CLIMATE & ENERGY FUNDERS GROUP (CEFG)

More than 100 funders attended the 2012 Climate & Energy Funders Group (CEFG) Annual Meeting in New York, featuring keynote speaker Lisa Jackson of the EPA and a reception hosted by Mayor Michael Bloomberg. In addition to an active webinar program, CEFG held its first-ever Northwest Climate and Energy Funders meeting, led by CGBD members Kay Treacle (Harder Foundation), Michael Northrop (Rockefeller Brothers Foundation), and Amy Solomon (Bullitt Foundation). Follow-up actions center around coal exports and the Pacific Coast Collaborative. The Northwest funders gathering joins the Southeast climate and energy funders network, up and running since 2011. In other news, several new foundations entered the Monitor Landscape tool, and CEFG-supporting foundations continued to grow in number.

CONSERVATION SCIENCE PROGRAM

The Conservation Science Program sponsored two high-profile education efforts in 2012: A multi-webinar series on integrating social science into conservation, organized by Vance Russell of the National Forest Foundation and featuring topics ranging from public-private conservation partnerships in Belize to environmental conflict resolution in the Intermountain West; and a ground breaking annual meeting session co-sponsored by the CGBD Horizon Committee on “Post-Modern Conservation? Grappling with the Realities of Ecosystem Adaptation in the Anthropocene.” This lively plenary featured author Emma Marris, who laid out her controversial case for how our strategies for saving nature must radically change.

MARINE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Marine Conservation Program hosted its best-attended annual meeting to date with more than fifty funders in attendance in Miami and a diverse array of educational webinars, both featuring expanded international focus in response to the increasingly global perspective of participating foundations. Our annual grantmaking survey, that captures timely data on the field’s grantmakers, gave the Program credit for fostering no fewer than fifteen collaborative efforts.

'99

Lynn Lohr third ED;
First Public Lands Briefing;
HEFN launched;
Invasive Species Report;
WTO in Seattle

'00

Private Forest Management
Consultancy;
Vancouver Briefing unites
US & Canadian Foundations;
Biodiversity Project Spins Off

'01

Horizon Committee Formed;
Ecological Health Briefing
Highlights Climate Change;
Climate and Energy Funders
Group forms;
Prep for WSSD in Johannesburg

'02

Continental Energy Policy—Tar
Sands;
Monitoring and Evaluation
Consultancy;
First annual survey of marine
funding

'03

REACH Tour;
Briefing on Conservation Science
at AMNH;
Marines Meet in Baja California

'04

Land and Freshwater Group
emerges;
Translation Papers: *Climate
Change Impacts*;
Collaboration on Aquaculture
Reform

'05

Equator Principles Briefing;
Conservation Science Retreat;
Forest Restoration Collaborations;
First delegations to UN Climate
Change COP-Montreal;
RGGI support coordinated

'06

Marines Meet in Belize on Reef
Protection and Marine Mammal
Toxics;
U.S. Water Policy Management
Briefing;
Lead Sponsor for Green
Chemistry Briefing;
Conservation Science Working
Group formed

'07

Gulf of California Funders
organized;
First Climate and Energy Funding
Survey;
Conservation Science Funding
Survey

'08

Michael Fischer fourth ED;
Climate Change Adaptation
Annual Meeting Theme;
Regional Climate & Energy
Meetings in NW, NE, SE;
Arctic Funders meet



From the Terramar Consulting Group report, *An Analysis of Shared Conservation Languages & Collaborative Opportunities Among U.S. Public Land Funders*

LAND & FRESHWATER PROGRAM

In addition to hosting a well-attended annual Public Lands Funders Briefing, the Land & Freshwater Program concluded a two-year consultancy on US freshwater conservation to identify overarching issues that would connect the activities of more than sixty participating foundations. New initiatives spinning off from that effort are now being carried forward by project participants.

Based on discussions at the 2012 Public Lands Briefing, several Program members decided to commission an analysis and written report to examine key elements of selected CGBD member foundations' North American terrestrial conservation funding programs. The purpose of this project is to help CGBD member foundations better collaborate with each other by having a clear understanding of the primary interests and priorities of their colleagues in terrestrial conservation efforts in North America. The final report was presented in late 2012, and implementation will begin in 2013.

GULF OF CALIFORNIA PROGRAM

CGBD launched the second "Success Stories" narrative, focusing on the Gulf of California funders initiative. We produced an informative, appealing, and fully bilingual "micro-site" about the initiative at <http://cgbd.org/goc>, highlighting the work of funders and NGOs in this environmentally sensitive region. The Gulf of California Program sustained an active calendar of conference calls and webinars. Support for grantee organizations' effectiveness and baseline security sparked a new capacity-building initiative. A series of three workshops focusing on security awareness and risk mitigation launched in 2012, coordinated by CGBD in partnership with the International Community Foundation. In addition, a gathering of funders and grantees included training on how to improve overall grant administration, reporting and compliance.

MEMBERSHIP

In 2012 we welcomed new core members, the George B. Storer Foundation, the Paul G. Allen Foundation, the Benwood Foundation, and the Herbert W. Hoover Foundation. In December 2012, the CGBD Membership Committee recommended to the CGBD Board two additional new members—the Overbrook Foundation and the Prospect Hill Foundation. As we begin 2013, with their addition, core CGBD membership includes 57 foundations and two government entities.

REMEMBERING TED SMITH

Finally and most profoundly, we grieved the loss of CGBD's founding executive director Ted Smith, who died in a hiking accident in the Mission Mountains on September 1. As Ted's obituary noted, "He was doing what he loved and in a place of incredible natural beauty." We have created a page on the CGBD website to collect memories of Ted—<http://cgbd.org/remembering-ted-smith>.



Ted Smith, Founding Executive Director

“The final, most provocative question:
Are we aiming high enough?”

—Ted Smith, *A Tasting Menu*

'09

Baja Funders collaborate on
vaquita protection;
Conservation Science Briefing on
Habitat & Energy;
Delegation of 90 funders to COP
15 in Copenhagen

'10

Ocean Acidification Initiative;
Sinaloa and Nayarit site visits;
Freshwater Consultancy begins;
Scenarios produced;
Website redesigned;
HEFN spins off

'11

Lynn Lohr returns as ED;
Climate change adaptation
boot camps;
Success Story #1: RE-AMP by
Monitor;
Success Story # 2: Gulf of
California Micro-site;
Member Satisfaction Survey

'12

8th Public Lands Briefing;
Largest Marine Meeting in Miami;
Largest CEFG Meeting in NYC;
Delegation to Rio +20 with
EDGE & EGA

HIGHLIGHTS OF CGBD PLANS FOR 2013

2013 Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars now to arrive Monday, June 17 (or Sunday, June 16, if you are attending one of Monday's carefully planned Academies) and depart Thursday, June 20, 2013 at the very green Lied Lodge, Nebraska City, about an hour from Omaha. The prairie and the mighty Missouri River will be at our doorstep. Alan Holt, Margaret A. Cargill Foundation, chairs the program committee.

Climate & Energy

Program Co-Chairs: Heidi Binko (Rockefeller Family Fund)
Amy Solomon (Bullitt Foundation)
Board Liaison: Lois DeBacker (Kresge Foundation)

The Climate and Energy Funders Group (CEFG) Annual Meeting will be held in San Francisco April 23-25.

CEFG will also continue to support our Utility Efficiency Study Group, a working group of funders seeking to support important work pushing energy efficiency in the utility sector, and convene regional meetings in the NE, SE, and potentially the NW.

Conservation Science

Program Co-Chairs: John Nordgren (Kresge Foundation)
Kai Lee (David and Lucile Packard Foundation)
Board Liaison: Kai Lee (David and Lucile Packard Foundation)

In January, the Program co-hosted with the Land and Freshwater Conservation Program, "The Benefits of Nature: Conserving Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services: A Workshop for Funders," at the David & Lucile Packard Foundation.

In 2013, the Program completes its nine-webinar series on "Integrating Social Science into Conservation." Program members will follow up on issues of interest identified by Program participants, including: monitoring and evaluation; community capacity building; tools for ecosystem-based management; enduring approaches to conserving biodiversity in a changing climate; and exporting habitat exchange models to public lands.

Land & Freshwater Conservation

Program Co-Chairs: Andrew Bowman (Doris Duke Charitable Foundation)
Denise Joines (Wilburforce Foundation)
Board Liaison: Kay Treacle (Harder Foundation)

In late February in Washington, DC, the Program hosted a meeting addressing a wide range of US terrestrial conservation issues, including: large landscape conservation; climate change adaptation; impacts of energy development on land, water and wildlife; and public lands policy and management. This briefing was held in conjunction with the Federal Policy Briefing hosted by the Environmental Grantmakers Association.

Continuing a special initiative begun in 2012, Program members will work together to examine barriers to collaboration and means to overcome those barriers in order to more effectively work together on North American terrestrial conservation funding programs. Through this Program, the CGBD will continue to be one of several grantmaker associations assisting funders on issues of US freshwater conservation.

Marine Conservation

Program Co-Chairs: Sybil Ackerman (Lazar Foundation)
Kate Barnes (John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation)
Board Liaison: Angel Braestrup (Munson Foundation)

Throughout the first half of 2013, the Program will host a series of webinars on issues in international marine conservation. Building upon this series of webinars, the Program will host its annual meeting in Portland, Oregon the first week in April. The theme of the meeting is "Vibrant Communities and Cool Oceans Along the Pacific Rim: A Look at Successful Conservation Projects that Use Innovative Solutions to Change the World." With the assistance of the staff at The Ocean Foundation, the Program will conduct its tenth annual survey of marine conservation grantmaking.

Gulf of California

Program Co-Chairs: Peter Bryant (Walton Family Foundation)
Richard Cudney-Bueno (David and Lucile Packard Foundation)
Board Liaison: Ken Wilson (The Christensen Fund)

Continuing the series of workshops intended to provide training and resources to environmental organizations working in northwest Mexico, the Gulf of California program organized another security workshop in January for grantees and NGOs working in the Ensenada area and will do the same in March for grantees in the Mazatlán area.

Building on a major workshop in August 2012, in 2013 the GOC program will be involved in the launch of a landmark initiative on grantee organizational effectiveness and capacity building.

International Connections Committee

Program Co-Chairs: Jeff Campbell (The Christensen Fund)
Don Weeden (Weeden Foundation)
Board Liaison: Bruce Lourie (Ivey Foundation)

For 2013, plans are in place to continue to increase international content in all convenings and participate in appropriate international fora. Lessons learned from the Gulf of California security workshops will be shared to benefit member grantees in other geographies. The CGBD may also serve as a platform for members to respond to biodiversity initiatives being developed by government or financial entities.

Horizon Committee

Program Chair & Board Liaison: Ken Wilson (The Christensen Fund)

Committee members take seriously their charge to “look over the horizon” and provide ideas to the membership for emerging issues or policies that may impact grantmaking. For 2013, along with providing webinars and conversations in conjunction with other programs and funder groups, the Committee is providing input to the Annual Meeting Program Committee on cross-cutting themes including the impact of agricultural biodiversity and the repositioning of conservation groups and funders to engage agriculture practitioners.

A subset of members will also build on the strong interest in the uses of narrative and story that surfaced in the 2011 Annual Meeting and was further developed in an Academy at the Chattanooga Annual Meeting.

Information and Communications

CGBD Communications staff will augment our customer service efforts, focusing on improved website navigation, faster webinar connections, downloadable presentations for all webinar and meeting speakers, seamless meeting registration procedures, and integrated information systems; members can follow our progress via our popular monthly Member Updates.

Process of Strategic Inquiry

Not content with the overwhelming customer satisfaction represented in the late 2011 survey of the membership, board and staff will conduct a process of strategic inquiry from January–June 2013, to make recommendations on how the CGBD can increase its already high level of service to its members.

CGBD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Executive Director
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